

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 7 9, 11, 14, 17, 19 and 20-24 are independent and are hereby amended in this response. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

A Terminal Disclaimer has been filed to obviate the non-statutory Obviousness-type Double Patenting rejection

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Independent claims 1, 4, 7 9, 11, 14, 17, 19 and 20-24 have been amended, thereby obviating the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejections.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejections.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-24 are allowable.

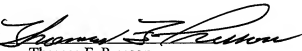
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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